This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

Claim 1: (currently amended) A method for assessing risk of Coronary Vascular Disease (CVD) in a patient which comprises measuring levels of both Lipoprotein Associated Phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2) and C-reactive protein (CRP) or Low Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol (LDL) in the patient, analyzing a risk associated with the level of CRP or LDL and a risk associated with the level of Lp-PLA2, and using the combined risks to assess the risk of CVD in the patient.

Claim 2: (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the Coronary Vascular Disease (CVD) is Coronary Heart Disease (CHD).

Claim 3: (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 which further comprises measuring levels of low density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL) and analyzing the respective wherein levels of all three markers, LDL, CRP and Lp-PLA2 are analyzed, in combination, so as to assess the risk of CVD in the patient

Claim 4: (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the measuring of CRP or LDL and Lp-PLA2 levels are done simultaneously.

Claim 5: (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the measuring of CRP or LDL and Lp-PLA2 are done sequentially.

Claim 6: (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein levels of CRP and LP-PLA2 are analyzed and the respective levels of CRP and Lp-PLA2 are based on dividing a patient population dataset into high and low levels of each CRP and Lp-PLA2 and a patient having both high CRP and high Lp-PLA2 levels is indicative of heightened risk of CVD.

Claim 7: (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein levels of CRP and LP-PLA2 are analyzed and the respective levels of CRP and Lp-PLA2 are based on dividing a patient population dataset into high, medium and low levels of each CRP and Lp-PLA2 and a patient having both high CRP and high Lp-PLA2 levels is indicative of heightened risk of CVD.

Claim 8: (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein

~~a.~~ (a) the respective levels of CRP and Lp-PLA2 are based on dividing a patient population dataset into high and low levels of each CRP and Lp-PLA2;

~~b.~~ (b) the respective level of LDL is based on dividing the patient population dataset into high and low levels of LDL; and

~~c.~~ (c) a patient having low LDL levels but having both high CRP and high Lp-PLA2 levels is indicative of heightened risk of CVD for the patient.

Claim 9: (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein

~~a.~~ (a) the respective levels of CRP and Lp-PLA2 are based on dividing a patient population dataset into high, medium and low levels of each CRP and Lp-PLA2;

~~b.~~ (b) the respective level of LDL is based on dividing the patient population dataset into high and low levels of LDL; and

~~c.~~ (c) a patient having low LDL levels but having both high CRP and high Lp-PLA2 levels is indicative of heightened risk of CVD for the patient.

Claim 10: (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining the patients risk of CVD using the ATP III guidelines.

Claim 11: (original) The method claim 1 wherein the Lp-PLA2 levels are determined by measuring either Lp-PLA2 mass or Lp-PLA2 activity.

Claims 12-15: (canceled)

Claim 16:(currently amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 1 wherein levels of LDL and LP-PLA2 are analyzed and the levels of Lp-PLA2 are based on dividing a patient population dataset into high, medium and low levels of Lp-PLA2 and a patient having both high Lp-PLA2 levels and low to normal LDL is indicative of heightened risk of CVD.

Claim 17: (canceled)

Claim 18: (currently amended) The method ~~claim 12~~ claim 21 wherein the patient is both diabetic and hypertensive.

Claim 19: (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 21 wherein the patient is diabetic, hypertensive and smokes.

Claim 20: (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 1 wherein the patient ~~suffer~~ suffers from a metabolic disorder.

Claim 21: (original) The method of claim 20 where in the metabolic disorder is selected from the group consisting of, obesity, overweight, diabetes, insulin resistance, anorexia, and cachexia.

Claim 22-23: (canceled)

Claims 24: (currently amended) A method for treating a subject to reduce the risk of a Coronary Vascular Disease (CVD), comprising: selecting and administering to a subject who has above-normal levels of both C-reactive protein (CRP) and Lipoprotein Associated Phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2) or both above-normal levels of Lipoprotein Associated Phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2) and low to normal levels of Low Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol (LDL), a therapeutic molecule selected from the group consisting of statins, Lp-PLA2 inhibitors or cholesterol reuptake inhibitors in an amount effective to lower the risk of the subject developing a future CVD.

Claim 25: (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the Coronary Vascular Disease (CVD) is Coronary Heart Disease (CHD).

Claims 26-29: (canceled)

Claim 30: (currently amended) A kit for diagnosing a patient's susceptibility to Coronary Vascular Disease (CVD) comprising both a suitable assay for measuring Lipoprotein Associated Phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2) levels and a suitable assay for measuring C-reactive protein (CRP) levels or Low Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol (LDL) levels wherein the levels of both CRP and Lp-PLA2 or both LDL and Lp-PLA2 are determined.

Claim 31: (original) The kit of claim 30 wherein the Coronary Vascular Disease (CVD) is Coronary Heart Disease (CHD).

Claim 32: (currently amended) The kit of claim 30 wherein the suitable assay for measuring Lp-PLA2 levels measures either Lp-PLA2 mass or Lp-PLA2 activity assay.

Claims 33-35 (canceled)